



# THE CROSS

July 23, 2023

## 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**JULY 23, 2023**  
**8am & 10am**  
**Worship**

**CLICK below for livestream**

<https://www.youtube.com/@LCRRacine/streams>

## Hospitality Center Wish List



**COFFEE**  
REGULAR-  
GROUND-  
LARGE CANS



**GRANOLA  
BARS**



**POWDERED  
COFFEE  
CREAMER**



**BAKED  
BEANS**



**SUGAR**



**SALAD  
DRESSING**



**CONDIMENTS**  
BBQ SAUCE-  
KETCHUP-  
MAYO



**DEODORANT**

Please only bring in the items on the list above.  
We will have a bin in the gathering area until  
July 30 for you to put your donations in.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday July 23

8am - Worship  
9:05am - Gospel Talk  
10am - Worship

### Monday July 24

8am-4pm - Neighborhood Camp

### Tuesday July 25

8am-4pm - Neighborhood Camp

### Wednesday July 26

8am-4pm - Neighborhood Camp

### Thursday July 27

8am-4pm - Neighborhood Camp

### Sunday July 30

8am - Worship  
9:05am - Gospel Talk  
10am - Worship

### Church Calendar

The church calendar is constantly being updated so to see the most current events please go to our website and click on Resources and then Calendar.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**Joyce Christopherson**, as she mourns the loss of her brother Wayne Geyer and her aunt Dorothy Geyer.

**Mary**, who is hospitalized at this time.

**Mike Z.**, a friend of Liz & Sam Graceffa, as he faces health concerns and upcoming surgery.

### UPCOMING WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

#### July 23 - 8am

**Worship Asst:** Stacey Robe

**Ushers:** Joe Kiemen,

**Communion Asst:** Jill Schwartz

#### July 23 - 10am

**Worship Asst:** Stacey Robe

**Ushers:** Steve Dues

**Communion Asst:**

Sandy & Jim Georgeson

**Power Point Tech:**

Valerie Nance

**Sound Tech:** Fred Jacobson

**Livestream Tech:**

Steve Jacobson



#### July 30- 8am

**Worship Asst:** Mary Hauch

**Ushers:** Joe Kiemen,  
Grace Holm

**Communion Asst:** Grace Holm

#### July 30 - 10am

**Worship Asst:** Mary Hauch

**Ushers:** Steve Dues,  
Connie Gardner

**Communion Asst:**

**Power Point Tech:**

Jakob Mohalley

**Sound Tech:** Chuck Petrach

**Livestream Tech:**

Gayle Wint

**Our members facing long term health concerns:** Myrna & Jim DeCamp, Barb Tuttle, Mardell Fisher, Shirley Alton, and Mark Wanggaard.

### SPONSOR A CAMPER

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD CAMP KIDS WHO WERE IN NEED!!!! THER WERE 23 KIDS IN NEED AND EVERY CHILD WAS SPONSORED!**

### SUNDAY'S SERMON AND "GOSPEL TALK"

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. – Romans 8:19-21

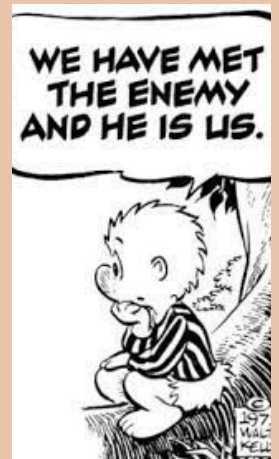
[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.” – Matthew 13:24-25

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## SUNDAY'S SERMON AND "GOSPEL TALK" (continued)

Does God allow evil to happen? Both our readings this week seem to suggest so. In Romans 8 God would seem to be the one who subjects creation to futility. Why? For the revealing of the freedom of the children of God. If God is a god of the power of force, then there's no question about freedom. God would simply make sure that bad things don't happen to whomever God favors. God wouldn't allow futility for god's friends. But if God is a god of the power of Love, then wouldn't God have to allow freedom? For true love never forces itself upon the beloved. It must allow the free choice of the beloved to not love in return.

In our Gospel Reading, the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, it seems like God allows an enemy to sow evil into the creation. Might I suggest along with the comic book character Pogo, that "we have met the enemy, and the enemy is us." God is love, and so God allows us to not love in return. The results in human history have been dire and deadly. For the most part, history reveals that we have chosen to believe in the false gods who wield powers of force. In doing so, we become our own worst enemies. We believe in our powers, and the false gods who justify them, to dominate others. We believe in the power to simply consume nature for our own purposes. That's why the rest of creation is waiting for us to get our act together. The whole of creation is groaning under the consequences of our false notions of freedom to believe in gods who justify our violence against each other and our earth home.



Please join us on Sunday, including the "Gospel Talk" between services – come early (9:05am) if you are a 10:00 worshiper – as we dig deeper into a revitalized Gospel message of Jesus faithfully loving the true God who is Love. Our broken world needs us to claim the revelation of our true freedom as loving service! Not forceful domination! (Hint: this revelation precludes things like racism, so-called Christian nationalism, selfishly consuming nature, and much more. It changes everything.)





**What a great  
fourth week of  
Neighborhood Camp!**

## *Happy Birthday!*

7/22	Toni Hayden	7/29	Linda Miritz
7/22	Scott Skaar	8/1	Steve Gaskill
7/24	Harold Holm	8/2	Jacki Kirt
7/24	Dwayne Olsen	8/2	Luann Vacek
7/25	Dave Weber	8/3	Nancy Wanggaard
7/28	Ryan Jacobson	8/4	Jim Molbeck
7/29	Bill Kroll	8/4	Mary Sporer

## *Happy Anniversary!*

7/23	Donna & Keith Buska	35
7/23	Amanda & Aaron Cikel	7
7/24	Emily & John Israel	13
7/25	Cheryl & Garret Cieczka	31
7/27	Mardell & Rob Fisher	38
7/27	Madeline & Matthew Kuzniar	4
7/27	Jennifer & Scott Skaar	38
7/28	Shelly & Paul Belanger	33
7/28	Julie & Colin McKenna	39
7/29	Mary Ann & Dale Kangas	45
8/1	Mary Lou & Jim Nielsen	36
8/4	Audrey & Frank Studrawa	22

### **SCRIP CARDS ARE AVAILABLE**



Scrip cards are available for purchase on Sunday mornings. We ask at this time you pay only by check and make it out to LCR Scrip. If you are looking for a vendor OR a different denomination, you can either access the website at <https://www.raiseright.com/brands> or contact Danielle at 262-989-1999.

### **LCR STAFF**

Pastor Paul Nuechterlein - Bridge Pastor	262-290-4533	<a href="mailto:pastorpaul@lccracine.org">pastorpaul@lccracine.org</a>
Cheryl Cieczka - Office Administrator	262-637-7431	<a href="mailto:office@lccracine.org">office@lccracine.org</a>
Emily Jacobson - Children/Youth Coordinator		<a href="mailto:youth@lccracine.org">youth@lccracine.org</a>



Racine Interfaith Coalition's



**Save the Date!**



# Food Truck FESTIVAL

St. Rita's Church  
4339 Douglas Ave.  
Racine, WI 53402

## Vendors

MM & E BBQ

Tots On The Street

Taqueria Arandas

Pawlie's

## Speaker

Dant'e  
Cottingham

## Entertainment

KR Bluegrass Band



262-635-9532  
ricracine1993@gmail.com  
www.ricracine.org

Donations  
accepted!